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May 21, 2008

Dear Valued Customer,

In response to the letter sent out by Tena Fasteners in relation to the ongoing court case with ITW Buildex please note the following;

Whilst ITW Buildex initiated proceedings on the basis of claimed patent infringement in respect of Tena's imported Clearfix and Bat'N'Fix screws, Tena counter-claimed that the Buildex patent relating to the RoofZip screws was not valid as it had no novelty and lacked inventiveness.

Given that, the court case proceeded on the basis of ITW Buildex defending the validity of the RoofZips® patent whilst pursuing the allegations of patent infringement.

Accordingly I am pleased report to you the very good news that our RoofZips patent has been found to be valid and therefore will continue to be enforced against future competitor threats for the duration of the patent. This means that the key attributes associated with the performance of the Zips® product into timber and metal and covered by the Buildex patent have been upheld. Conversely, any imitation product will not be able to achieve the same performance levels without infringing the Buildex patent. For further information pertaining to the Judge's findings please refer to; http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/FCA/2008/552.txt

With regard to the Tena imported product, Justice Finkelstein's finding was that the taper was not functional which means the performance of the product is clearly inferior to the Zips® drilling performance.

As you may be aware, this court case has been running for just over four years. The defence of the Buildex Australian Made, Locally Designed and Patented products has been and will continue to be of critical importance to the ongoing vitality and growth of our Australian based manufacturing and the industry as a whole. The Buildex innovation and patent protected product strategy remains intact and along with the RoofZips® patent we have and are currently working on a multitude of new product innovations to ensure our reputation as being:

"Committed to being the leading Australian manufacturer and marketer of construction fastener solutions based on Innovative Products, Outstanding Quality and Uncompromising Service".

Yours faithfully

Martin Van Os

General Manager - ITW Buildex

